

JULY 15, 2019

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AND VICE PRESIDENT

A photograph of two men in suits standing in front of a natural rock arch. The man on the left is wearing a dark suit, a striped shirt, and a bolo tie. The man on the right is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. Both are wearing glasses and have a small circular pin on their lapels. The background is a large, reddish-brown rock formation with a prominent natural archway. The sky is overcast.

STATE OF THE NAVAJO NATION ADDRESS

2019 SUMMER NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL SESSION



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President
Jonathan Nez
and
Vice President
Myron Lizer



Yáát'ééh to the honorable members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Seth Damon, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, as well as chapter, county, state, and federal leaders, and most importantly our Diné Citizens. On behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we are pleased to present to you the State of the Navajo Nation Address for the 2019 Summer Council Session.

Today marks six months since the Nez-Lizer Administration and the 24th Navajo Nation Council took office on January 15, 2019. More than ever before, we remain committed to working together with the Council, Judicial Branch, Chapters, and many others to bring positive change for our Navajo people and communities.

We recently met with the 24th Navajo Nation Council to present our administration's strategic plan known as, "Hozhó Diné bi Nahat'á" which is based on the priorities of the Navajo people. This document will guide our administration's divisions, departments, and programs to serve our people and our communities in the years to come.

As we have previously stated, our administration believes that change presents an opportunity – the opportunity to work together to strengthen and empower our people and our communities through the teaching we know as, "T'áá hwó' ajít'éego," or self-reliance and self-determination. The Nez-Lizer Administration continues to reinforce this teaching throughout the Navajo Nation, particularly among our young people.

To create change and better the lives of our people, we need to believe in ourselves individually, collectively, and at the government level, to become truly self-reliant and to determine our own future. T'áá hwó' ajít'éego is a critical teaching that our administration continues to promote and practice.

In the following State of the Navajo Nation Address, we provide an overview of several recent achievements and the ongoing progress of other initiatives. We understand that we cannot create change and move our Nation forward on our own, we need the partnership and support of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and many others to do so.

In closing, we once again thank 24th Navajo Nation Council for your hard work, leadership, and support. We assure you that the Nez-Lizer Administration will continue working with you to create a better future for all of our people.

God bless each of you, and God bless our great Navajo Nation!

Budget Priorities

As we continue with the development and consideration of the Navajo Nation's fiscal year 2020 budget, the Executive Branch is striving to put forth a fiscally responsible budget based on prudence, meeting direct services, eliminating excessive spending, promoting "Buy Navajo, Buy Local," and eliminating the duplication of services.

We extend our appreciation to Speaker Seth Damon and Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne for working together with the Nez-Liz-er Administration to put forth budget allocations for the three branches of government, which totals a little over \$167 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

Since taking office, we directed each Division Director to develop their respective budgets to meet the direct service needs of our elders, youth, disabled, and others who rely on the Nation for a hand-up, without any layoffs.

We have also directed Division Directors to hold their department and program managers accountable for work-related travel off the Navajo Nation, which includes working to eliminate meetings, conferences, and trainings that are held at sites off the Navajo Nation.

This not only reduces costs but also promotes our administration's "Buy Navajo, Buy Local" initiative that played a major role in keeping our Navajo people home on the Navajo Nation during the recent Fourth of July celebrations in Tuba City, Kayenta, and Window Rock.



The Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development in partnership with the Navajo Nation Fair Office, CKP Insurance, LLC, and the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, sponsored the Window Rock celebration to make the events open and free to the public. In addition, they provided free-of-charge space at the fairgrounds to allow Navajo entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services – all in accordance with the “Buy Navajo, Buy Local” initiative.

As we look forward two years from now, the projections provided by the Office of the Controller indicate a further reduction in revenues for the Nation. With that in mind, our administration is also proposing to change the way we develop our annual budget by relying on funds that our Nation has in-hand rather than relying on projected revenues.

To accomplish this, we propose to utilize a portion of the Síhasin Fund in the future to fund the Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget. This idea presents a new and creative way of budgeting for the priorities of the Navajo people with money that we have in-hand right now, rather than relying on uncertain revenue projections, as we have done for many years. This proposal is a bold step forward and meets the call for change that our Navajo people demand.



FEMA Disaster Declaration Agreement

With the help and support of many, our administration was successful in submitting a claim for reimbursement under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. On May 21, President Donald J. Trump granted the Major Disaster Declaration for the Navajo Nation, which also designated Federal Coordinating Officer Benigno Bern Ruiz to coordinate and assist the Navajo Nation in executing the FEMA-Tribe Agreement for disaster assistance governing the expenditure of federal funds.

As a result of the Nez-Lizer Administration’s proactive approach to forecasted snowstorms in the month of February, and constant reminders to chapters, divisions, and others to document all expenses, we are pleased to report that the Navajo Nation finalized the FEMA-Tribe Agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on June 10. This action ensures that the Nation will receive up to 75-percent reimbursement for the emergency funds expended due to the severe snowstorms and subsequent flooding and heavy mud that impacted many of our communities.

Through the use of social media, public service announcements, and other resources, we successfully worked together to prevent any loss of human lives and to minimize the impacts of the inclement weather.

Based on this emergency, we are requesting the support of the 24th Navajo Nation Council to allocate funds for an existing budget line item for disaster relief under the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety’s budget during the upcoming fiscal 2020 budget session. This will ensure that our chapters and divisions will have accessible and readily available funds in the event of future emergencies.



Support for Youth Centers

The Nez-Lizer Administration fully supports our young people, our children, our future – and this was demonstrated by the recent signing of Resolution CMY-18-19, appropriating \$2.5 million from the Síhasin Fund to assist with the construction of the new youth center in the community of Crownpoint, N.M. We thank Honorable Mark Freeland for sponsoring this bill and for the unanimous support of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

On June 15, we were joined by members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, New Mexico Deputy Secretary of Indian Affairs Nadine Padilla, Office of Diné Youth, and local community members as we signed and approved this resolution. This is the result of years of hard work and partnership of the Executive and Legislative Branches.

In the previous administration, we worked closely with Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty to facilitate meetings and discussions in support of the youth center for the eastern region of the Navajo Nation. Working together, we can make a big difference in the lives of our young people through projects such as the Crownpoint Youth Center.

Moving forward, we are encouraged by the success of this particular initiative, and we offer our support for Legislation No. 0173-19, sponsored by Honorable Herman Daniels, which seeks the appropriation of approximately \$9.5 million from the Síhasin Fund for a new youth center in the community of Shonto, Arizona. We respectfully request the support of the 24th Navajo Nation Council for the passage of this bill.



The Healthy Diné Nation Act

Recently, we had the honor of joining the community of Ts'ah Bii Kin as they celebrated the successful completion of a new walking and jogging trail, which was constructed by summer youth employment workers hired by the chapter. The new trail will serve many local community members to live active and healthy lifestyles to battle diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and other health issues that affect many of our Navajo people.

The funding for this new trail was provided in part through the two-percent sales tax on unhealthy foods and beverages sold on the Navajo Nation, commonly known as the "junk food tax," which was made possible through the passage of the Healthy Diné Nation Act in 2014. The 2014 bill included a provision that calls for the two-percent sales tax to expire in 2020. We are calling on the 24th Navajo Nation Council to consider legislation to extend the two-percent sales tax to continue benefitting the health and wellness of our Navajo people through local projects, such as the new trail in the Ts'ah Bii Kin community.

With the passage of the Healthy Diné Nation Act in 2014, the Navajo Nation led the entire country by way of promoting healthy living through "thinking outside of the box" and delivering innovative ideas for our communities and people to prosper. Many communities throughout the Navajo Nation are now seeing the benefits of the "junk food tax" revenue and continue to encourage other chapters to do the same using their portion of the sales tax revenue.

We look forward to working together with the 24th Navajo Nation Council to ensure that the Healthy Diné Nation Act continues beyond 2020.





Support for RECA Amendments

On July 2, we along with Navajo Nation Department of Health Executive Director Dr. Jill Jim, and Honorable Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Daniel Tso, met with former Navajo uranium mine workers who are part of the “Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee,” to reaffirm our administration’s support for a bill to amend and update the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, or RECA. The proposal would expand specific provisions that would include providing benefits to “downwinders” and former uranium mine workers.

We have many of our people who are still suffering and many who have passed on due to uranium exposure in one way or another, and it is the responsibility of the federal government to clean up the abandoned mines as well as to provide compensation to those who are impacted. Our people have waited too long for the passage of a bill to update RECA – the time is now for Congress to pass this bill.

In June of last year, we along with Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty led a delegation of former uranium mine workers to Washington D.C. to advocate for the RECA amendments, and to provide testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary in support of the former uranium workers.

In recent months, we have met with numerous House and Senate lawmakers to advocate for support of the proposed changes to RECA. On June 21, we issued a letter to members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs requesting a hearing on the legacy of uranium mining in Indian Country. We are optimistic that a bill will soon be introduced to support our efforts on behalf of those affected by uranium mining and development.



Ensuring a Successful 2020 Census Count

Our administration continues to build the Nation’s partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure an accurate 2020 census count for the Navajo people. We thank the 24th Navajo Nation Council members for approving legislation to establish the Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission, which consists of five Council members and five members appointed by the President and Vice President, to raise public awareness for the upcoming census count.

On June 26, Honorable Otto Tso participated in a meeting with U.S. Census Bureau Associate Director of Field Operations Tim Olson and Chris Stanley with the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs in Washington D.C., to discuss how we will work together to encourage the Navajo public to participate in the upcoming census count.

We agree with the Council members that there is a great need for the Navajo Nation to remain actively involved in the planning and implementation of the 2020 census count, so that our people are well-informed and to ensure that those living in remote areas are counted. The collection of accurate census data has very critical implications in terms of funding, policy development, political representation, and other factors at every level of government.



During the meeting, we recommended that the Census Bureau consider recruiting experienced Navajo election poll workers who are also required to be fluent in the Navajo and English languages, to assist with the 2020 census data collection. We also reaffirmed the need to allocate efficient resources to reach the elderly, disabled, and those living without access to the internet or other means of communication.

Accurate census data affords us a better opportunity to advocate and secure more federal funds for the Navajo Nation. For example, census data was a crucial component in determining the designation of 'opportunity zones' across the country to provide support and incentives to promote economic opportunities. Our administration continues to urge members of Congress and the Trump Administration to include portions of the Navajo Nation in the opportunity zones designations.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the U.S. Census Bureau, the 24th Navajo Nation Council, and the Navajo Nation Census 2020 Complete Count Commission for their support and for working together to make the census count a success.

NGS Decommissioning

With the ongoing decommissioning of the Navajo Generating Station, our administration sees economic opportunities and potential for our Navajo entrepreneurs to benefit from the assets that will remain on the NGS property.

Recently, we, along with several Division Directors, had the opportunity to tour the NGS property and to visit with NGS workers. We appreciate the encouraging words offered by their workforce. Our administration strongly encourages the NGS employees and Kayenta Mine workers to seize this opportunity by becoming entrepreneurs, using the skills and ex-

perience they gained working at the power plant, to create their own businesses in order to submit bids on projects on the Navajo Nation.

We see opportunity in the assets that the Nation will retain and in the workforce that has been empowered through the work skills and vast experience and knowledge they have gained over the years. We believe in our people – we believe that they can harness what they have learned and become successful business owners.

According to the tentative decommissioning timeline, the last coal train delivery is planned for August 31, 2019. The 30-day coal supply and an approximately 6-day supply contained in the coal pile base will be burned until the units are shut down. Barring any equipment or system failures, Unit 3 will be shut down first, followed by unit 2, and finally unit 1 in December 2019.

Throughout this transition, it is essential that we continue to work together with the NGS officials, the workforce, and others to continue creating a positive and sustainable path for our Nation. We envision our people taking the lead in many areas of economic development and job creation.

This fall, SRP/NGS will host receptions that will incorporate career fairs inclusive of colleges and businesses that wish to expand in the Lake Powell region. This will eventually lead up to a farewell event that will highlight the history that the plant shared with the region and the impact it made on families, both Navajo and non-Navajo.



Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2019

On June 26, our administration called on lawmakers to enact into law the bipartisan H.R. 644, the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act, during testimony before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife in Washington D.C. We are very thankful to Honorable Delegates Eugenia Charles-Newton, Otto Tso, and Raymond Smith, Jr. for joining us in support of this effort to bring clean water to Navajo families in the state of Utah.

We thank Representative Rob Bishop and Senator Mitt Romney, both of Utah, for sponsoring the House and Senate bills that seek to solidify water rights in this landmark settlement between the Navajo Nation, the United States, and the State of Utah.

The settlement sets a quantity of water aside for the Navajo Utah communities and provides critical funding for water infrastructure for Navajo Utah communities by authorizing the appropriation of approximately \$210 million for a Trust Fund that will be conveyed to the Navajo Nation, with \$198 million dedicated to planning, design, and construction and \$11 million devoted to operations and management.

Our Navajo communities are in great need of more water resources as more than 40-percent of Navajo households in Utah lack running water or adequate sanitation in their homes. In some cases, such as in the community of Oljato on the Arizona-Utah border, a single spigot on a desolate road, miles from any residence, serves 900 people.

The passage of this legislation will advance the commitments made in the Treaty of 1868, where Navajo leaders pledged their honor to keep peace with the United States and, in return, the United States promised to the Navajo People a permanent homeland. In the arid West, no lands can be a permanent homeland without an adequate supply of water, especially potable water.

In a meeting with Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert on July 8, we thanked him for his support for the settlement and requested his assistance in continuing to push the bills through the House and Senate. We appreciate the partnership of the 24th Navajo Nation Council in advocating on behalf of the Navajo Nation.





Grazing Permits – Navajo Partitioned Lands

The Nez-Lizer Administration met with several concerned elderly residents from the Black Mesa community in May, regarding their concerns with the process and provisions related to the reissuance of grazing permits in the Navajo Partitioned Lands through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We spent several hours discussing their concerns, which stem from extensive historical and traditional teachings and practices that are rooted in the raising and ownership of sheep, cattle, and horses.

We stand with the elderly residents in their request to re-evaluate the policies that were approved by the previous Resources and Development Committee members. During our discussion, we also conveyed our support and recommendation to hold public hearings in the NPL communities to hear directly from the residents in a formal setting.

Many of our elders have legitimate concerns that we believe can be addressed by working together with the Navajo Nation Council and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We look forward to working on this matter to revisit the policies for the benefit of NPL residents.

Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives

Through the partnership of the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, 24th Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation Sexual Violence Prevention Working Group, Diné College, and the Northern Arizona University Center for Health Equity Research, the Navajo Nation held its very first Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Forum on June 28 and 29 in Shiprock.

This collaborative effort focused on discussions to understand and address the epidemic of missing and murdered Diné relatives by establishing a framework for the Navajo Nation's first MMDR data institute. Navajo Nation First Lady Phefeliah Nez spoke on behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration during the forum and reaffirmed the need for a data and research institute to address the problem of missing and murdered Navajo women, children, and relatives.

The proposed MMDR data institute would gather, study, and research criminal and social statics related to missing and murdered relatives, address problem areas related to criminal and social crimes, increase access to resources and funding, and assert autonomy over data collection to support Navajo Nation programs, educational institutes, and organizations.

Our administration realizes that in order for Navajo families to restore balance, love, and harmony after losing a loved one, there remains a great need for accurate data to secure more resources and assistance.

The Office of the President and Vice President also established an internal work group known as the "Diné Nihik'éei Nihíí' Násdłíí' Work Group (Reunite our Diné Relatives)," led by First Lady Nez and Second Lady Dottie Lizer, to begin addressing issues and concerns related to missing and murdered peoples and social problems impacting Navajo families. The work-group has tentatively scheduled a summit in August to gather with tribal, state, and federal leaders to address all related concerns.





Protection of the Chaco Landscape

Working together with the 24th Navajo Nation Council and our leaders in Congress, our administration continues to advocate for the protection of the Chaco Canyon landscape that holds great historical and cultural significance for many Indigenous people.

On June 5, the Nez-Lizer Administration provided testimony before the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands in support of H.R. 2181: the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019, sponsored by Representative Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico, which seeks a permanent ban on oil and gas leasing within a 10-mile radius of the Chaco landscape.

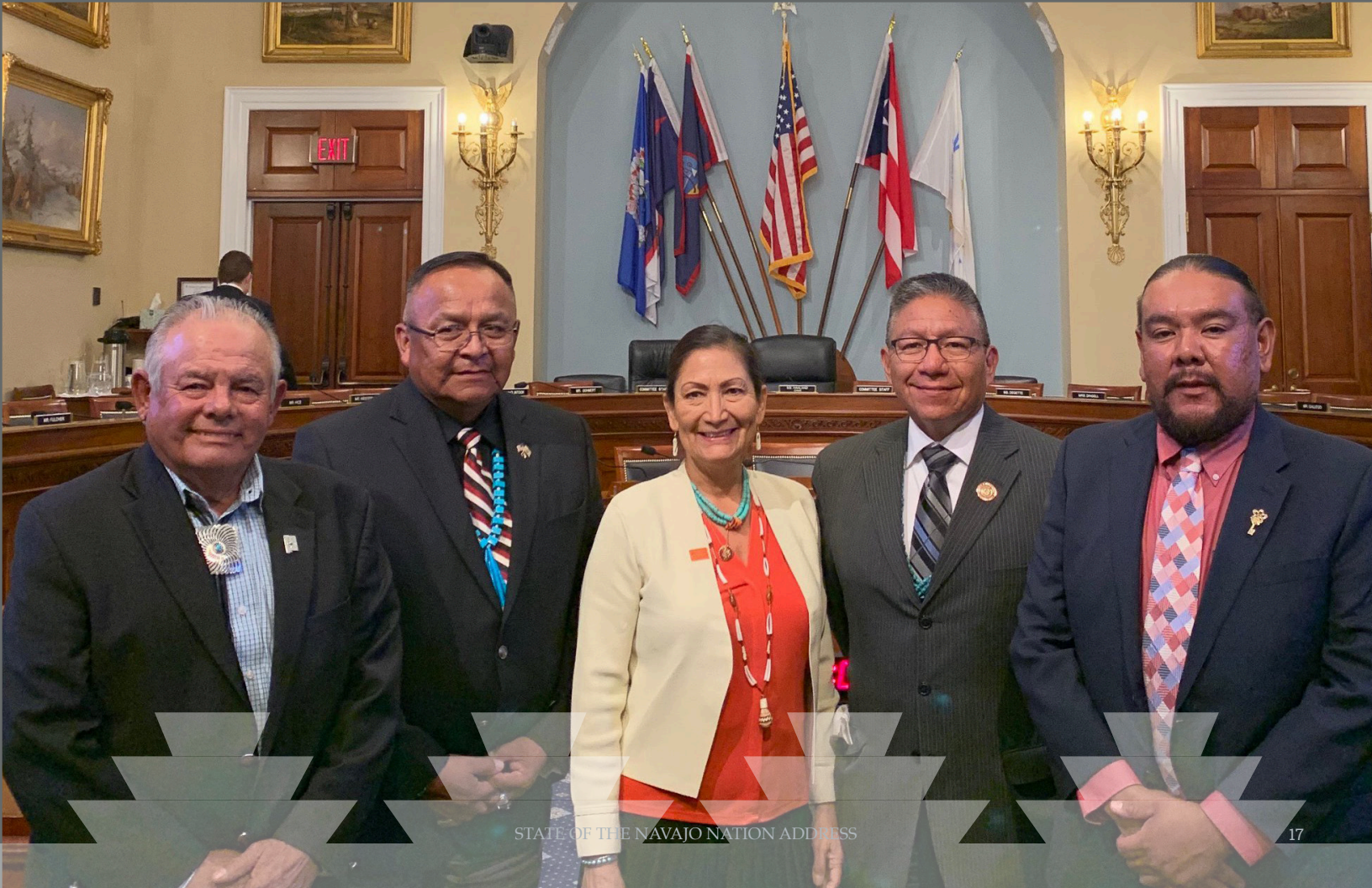
On June 25, Congressman Luján successfully secured an amendment in the House for a one-year moratorium on oil and gas drilling near the Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The amendment would also prohibit federal funding to be used for future mineral development on federal lands near the Chaco Cultural National Historical Park for one year, but does not affect the mineral rights of any tribal member or tribe on trust or allotted land.

In May, we also met with U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich and U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt at the Chaco Culture National Historical Park to convey the cultural importance of the Chaco landscape. We also thank Senator Heinrich for his leadership in working together with the Department of the Interior in support of the Chaco landscape.

The Greater Chaco Region is a living landscape, meant to be accessible for tribal communities to support the continuance of cultural practices vital to our present identity. The bill aims to protect the land, structures, and environment from any

unanticipated adverse effects associated with unchecked oil and gas development in the region.

We thank Assistant Speaker Luján, the House of Representatives, and others who played a vital role in supporting the amendment. We continue to request the support of the U.S. Senate and Trump Administration for the amendment.



Navajo Nation Veterans Summit

Beginning on July 11, the Navajo Veterans Administration hosted a two-day Navajo Nation Veterans Summit at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort in Leupp, Arizona, which was free and open to all veterans, service providers, friends, and families. The summit focused on areas including VA claims and benefits, tribal, state, and federal benefits, housing, transportation, PTSD counseling, and caregiver roles and support.

On July 1, our administration introduced the new Navajo Veterans Administration acting Director James D. Zwierlein, who was appointed to serve in this new capacity following the resignation of former director John I. King, who left the position to spend more time with his family.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Zwierlein served as an Executive Staff Assistant with the Office of the President and Vice President and was assigned to work on housing issues, which included veterans housing.

Zwierlein was honorable discharged in 2011 after approximately 15 years of service in various capacities with the Marine Corps, which included serving as a liaison to members of the U.S. Intelligence Oversight Committee, as an Operations Chief with the 11th Marine Artillery Regiment in which he managed and coordinated nation building projects in Afghanistan to rebuild and stabilize local economies. He also served as a project manager at Camp Las Pulgas, where he managed the construction of several new facilities for U.S. Marine and Navy personnel.

Following his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, he served as the operations manager for a residential construction company, to create the company's strategic plans to build homes and generate a highly-skilled workforce using local labor forces.

Zwierlein's military, management, and housing development experience will make it an easier transition and a good fit to assume the ongoing duties and initiatives in his new position as the acting Director of the Navajo Veterans Administration. Among other responsibilities, we have tasked Mr. Zwierlein with implementing a housing manufacturing facility on the Navajo Nation to construct and deliver homes for Navajo veterans as part of the veterans housing program, with a specific focus on providing housing floor plans based on the traditional Navajo Hogan concept.

Our administration also looks forward to working with the 24th Navajo Nation Council to amend policies to provide veterans assistance/benefits at the local chapter level, as opposed to relying on the central government to process benefit checks for our veterans. This will provide a much more efficient and feasible pathway to providing the assistance that serves many Navajo veterans across the Navajo Nation.

With Mr. Zwierlein's military background and knowledge of issues that impact Navajo veterans, we are confident that he will work with federal and state agencies and Navajo veterans' organizations to help our veterans on the Navajo Nation.

Improving the Medical Needs for the Navajo People

Over the last two months, the Navajo Nation has achieved two significant milestones in the ongoing commitment to providing medical care for our Navajo people. In May, we had the honor of welcoming former Second Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden, to Tuba City to visit the very first cancer treatment center in all of Indian Country.

The Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation has worked for several years to forge new partnerships with universities, health care companies, and health industry professionals to garner support for the cancer treatment center to provide chemotherapy, support groups, and other much-needed services for Navajo people who suffer from various types of cancer.

The new cancer treatment center will help cancer patients that previously had to travel hundreds of miles to Flagstaff to receive treatment. Many Navajo cancer patients are required to receive treatments several times a month, but often lack the resources to travel long distances. Due to these circumstances, many patients were not receiving adequate treatment.

By working together, we can develop many more cancer treatment centers on the Navajo Nation. We are very grateful to Dr. Jill Biden and all of the partners for making this possible.



On June 25, the community of Dilkon also reached a significant milestone with the groundbreaking for the new Dilkon Medical Center that will provide critical medical services to thousands of Navajo people in Dilkon and nearby communities in the southwestern portion of the Navajo Nation.

Our administration is proud to have supported this facility through a letter issued on May 9 to the Indian Health Service that authorized the Winslow Indian Health Care Center, in coordination with the Dilkon Health Care Steering Committee, to complete the design and construction of the medical center under a Title V construction project agreement with IHS.

This milestone is the result of years of the hard work and persistence of local officials, including Honorable Elmer P. Begay, working in partnership with the Winslow Indian Health Care Center. This project symbolizes what can be accomplished to meet the health care needs of our Navajo people by working together and by empowering our local officials.

The community of Dilkon has a vision for their people, and that encompasses community and economic opportunities and growth. This new medical center will be a major part of developing that overall vision to create jobs, revenue, and sustainability.

The Nez-Lizer Administration continues to meet with Acting Director of Indian Service Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee, to continue discussions for the new hospital facility to replace the decades-old Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gallup, New Mexico.

We continue to advocate for a site that is feasible for the new hospital facility as well as new retail stores, residency options, professional offices, and more. The replacement of GIMC is one of two priorities for IHS along with the replacement of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. We thank IHS for their continued efforts to partner with the Navajo Nation to create a comprehensive development site that benefits the Navajo people.





Kayenta Diversion Dam

On June 12, Honorable Nathaniel Brown joined us as we met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kayenta Chapter and Farm Board officials, local community members, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Area Power Administration, and the National Park Service at the Kayenta Township to discuss rebuilding the Kayenta diversion dam, which was built in the early 1950's by residents; however, the dam eventually broke in 2012 due to heavy rainfall.

In August 2017, the Kayenta Chapter finalized an agreement with the Department of the Army, which allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide technical assistance to conduct a flood plain study. The study hopes to gather more information about the flow of water, rain and snow runoff, and other factors.

The study would enable local officials to plan appropriately for water projects and to prevent flooding. Since then, Delegate Nathaniel Brown and his Legislative District Assistant Renae Hoshnic, have advocated for the reconstruction of the diversion dam. We also discussed improving water management, and revitalizing agriculture and farming for local Navajo families.

Rebuilding the Kayenta diversion dam will allow Navajo families in the area to farm once again and to teach our young

people about our Navajo Way of Life and all of the other teachings that our parents and grandparents taught us. Agriculture and farming are also about moving our Nation forward in terms of self-sufficiency and sustainability.

The community is also in need of the replacement of two bridges along Parrish Creek, which serves many families in the area. Officials with the Western Area Power Administration are also monitoring areas along Parrish Creek to ensure the safety and stability of power lines that provide electricity to several Arizona towns.

Once the diversion dam is reconstructed, it will allow the local reservoir known as “Dry Lake” to be refilled and used for irrigation and in future drought situations. The dam will also allow for water flow management for other communities downstream, rather than having water flow through the communities without capturing any for future use. Our administration looks forward to continuing to work with Honorable Nathaniel Brown, local officials, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to rebuild the Kayenta diversion dam.



Working Together for Water Resources

Water infrastructure and water resources are essential for life, for community development, for economic development, and just about everything that is required for our people and Nation to prosper. Access to clean water is a basic human right for all people, and that includes our Navajo people and the Hopi people.

For years, we have held numerous discussions and meetings with the Hopi Tribe in hopes of resolving water allocations that are agreeable for both sides and that allow the Navajo and Hopi people to prosper for many generations to come. Our administration is encouraged by recent discussions that occurred during a meeting with Hopi Chairman Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma and several members of the Hopi Tribal Council.

The discussions centered on a stalled proposal to settle the rights to water in the state of Arizona. This marked the first time that the Nez-Lizer Administration and the 24th Navajo Nation Council met with the Hopi Tribe to discuss a proposed settlement.

We acknowledge that the Nation's leaders owe it to future generations to work together with the Hopi Tribe to secure water for many future generations to come. Our administration also thanks Council Delegates Raymond Smith, Jr., Elmer P. Begay, Jimmy Yellowhair, Jr., and Charlaine Tso for being apart of the dialogue on behalf of the Navajo people.

We also thank the Hopi Tribe for their thoughtful discussions as we continue to move forward together.





#UNITY
#HOPE
#RESILIENCE